

Today's Topics:

BULL <> HEATHKIT (or is it) :-)
Double Ducky Doldrums
FAA emergency frequencies?
new Part 97
Repeaters in the SFO area

Date: Wed, 18 Oct 89 08:46:55 EST

From: bill gunshannon <702WFG%SCRVMSYS.BITNET@CORNELL.CIT.CORNELL.EDU>

Subject: BULL <> HEATHKIT (or is it) :-)

>In article <2278@cbnews1.ATT.COM>, hawk@cbnews1.ATT.COM (james.p.hawkins)

> writes:

>> >

>> > Now that Zenith is selling its Heath business to Clendes Machines Bull,

>> > will Heathkit become Bullkit? :-)

>> > --

>

> In the October 9 issue of Info World there is a story stating that Groupe
> Bull will be keeping the name of Zenith for the computer line. This came
> from Bull Exec V.P. Gerald Vennard. No mention was made of the Heathkit
> kit line.

>

>

> John

I saw no mention of BULL buying HEATH in any of the news relating to this transaction. Quite the contrary the deal is supposed to be ZENITH selling off it's computer business in order to concentrate on the consumer electronics market. I think if you look closely at a catalog you will find much more consumer devices than computers. I am much more curious as to what will happen to all the very large government contracts that Zenith had to sell computers. Lets see, USMA (~1500/yr), USNA (~4000/yr), USAFA (~4000/yr) and that is just the students!!

Should prove rather interesting to watch considering the already staggering balance of payments problems we have.

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Date: Tue, 17 Oct 89 23:44:36 EDT

From: Michael_Edelman%Wayne-MTS@um.cc.umich.edu
Subject: Double Ducky Doldrums

Hate to interrupt the slashing and burning with tech matters but...

SOME time ago I mentioned that I had bought the Circuit Specialties DDDF kit and was having problems with it. Well, never having gotten it to work right and deciding that soldering in tiny places wasn't my favorite hobby, I struck out anew.

Mark I was essentially a copy of the 73 magazine article. I found that the 555 timer is noisy as all get out (but you knew that, right?) and radiated a lot of hash through the ducks. Worse, there was so much noise inside the box that I never did get a good, reliable figure-8 pattern.

Mark II is a box based on the original QST article, though modified somewhat. ANTenna switching is done with PIN diodes across the antenna connectors and 1/4 wave lines from said connectors to a BNC T. The pulse generator is a 567 in its own shielded box, separate from the antenna box. (Both are made from double sided PCB material). This works pretty well. I left out the frequency varying pot but left the level-adjust pot; even this doesn't seem too necessary.

Next step is to build a switching-type L/R indicator using a quad analog switch. The board is finished, the meter has been acquired (100-0-100ua) and all that's needed is a final test and a box to mount it in. I also plan to re-do ol' number 1, putting a 10-ohm resistor and some caps on the 555's supply line, internal shielding in the box, and maybe going to the parallel PIN switching scheme.

But while this all seems to work, it still looks like doppler is the way to go. Once the current project stack is finished I'm thinking about building my own real doppler. The Dick Smith kit, if still available, has been built by a local ham. He was able to get a range of no more than 3 miles after extensive mods to cut the amount of switching noise. Anyone try building the circuit in the recent Tab DF-ing manual?

Interested fans of ducks and dopplers are invited to correspond or post their experiences.

73, mike ke8yy

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Date: Wed, 18 Oct 89 13:35 EDT
From: Ed Schwalenberg <Ed@ALDERAAN.SCRC.Symbolics.COM>
Subject: FAA emergency frequencies?

The FAA office in Burlington, MA has just erected a large antenna on their roof, which has piqued the curiosity of the pilots and hams who work here at SCRC, across the parking lot from said antenna. The information office referred me to the operations center, which explained that the antenna was for HF SSB emergency communications with other FAA facilities but declined to provide details like frequencies.

The antenna looks roughly like this:

```
      |           ; | Center tower is about 24' tall
\=====|===== / ; \ / Six "umbrella ribs"
.\====|====/.    ; === Lots of wires (1 every foot or so) wrapped around ribs.
. \==|==/.      ; .. Lots of wires (guys or elements? I don't know) running
. . \|/ . .     ;      from ribs to roof
. . .|. . .
    ...|...
    .|.
roofroofroofroof
```

I've never seen an antenna like this before; does anybody recognize the design? Does anybody have any idea what frequencies the FAA might be using for this system?

Date: Wed, 18 Oct 89 09:02:24 EST
From: bill gunshannon <702WFG%SCRVM SYS.BITNET@CORNELLC.cit.cornell.edu>
Subject: new Part 97

>Date: 13 Oct 89 16:14:17 GMT
>From: asuvax!anasaz!john@handies.ucar.edu (John Moore)
>Subject: new Part 97
>
>In article <185@cvman.prime.com> gdelong@cvman.prime.com (Gary Delong) writes:
>|| (1) Facilitate the public's safe observation of, or safe
>|| participation in, a parade, race, marathon or similar public
>|| gathering. No amateur station shall transmit communications
>|| concerning moving, supplying and quartering observers and
>|| participants for any sponsoring organization unless the principal
>|| beneficiary of such communications is the public and any benefit
>|| to the sponsoring organization is incidental.

>]Now 97.113(a)(1) indicates that "public service" activities must be
>]limited to those where "the principal beneficiary of such communications
>]is the public and any benefit to the sponsoring organization is incidental."
>]

>]That seems to be just the opposite of what communications occur at most
>]public service activities I have seen in the past. The vast majority
>]of communications have been in support of the logistics of running the
>]event.

>Ah... but you miss the point. Most of the logistics of running the event
>are to benefit the public involved in the event. For example, if
>you coordinate the supply of water at a marathon, the principle
>beneficiary is the public, not the sponsor. If you use the radio
>to advertise the event, the beneficiary is the sponsor.

>--

>John Moore (NJ7E) mcdphx!anasaz!john asuvax!anasaz!john

That's not really true either. You saved the sponsor the cost of hiring
a commercial communications provider. Or even just leasing commercial
radios and hiring operators to man them. I'll bet he didn't put the money
he saved into his favorite charity either. ;-)

(UP ON MY SOAPBOX)

I have long thought that hams need to be more careful about who and what
events we provide communications for. Events that were intended to provide
enjoyment/entertainment for the public in the past have changed over the
last few years. Most of the marathons that are held anymore only tolerate
the weekend runner today. They are PROFESSIONAL events with large prizes
and corporate backers and even larger budgets. MHT doesn't sponsor The NY
Marathon out of the goodness of it's heart. They do it strictly for the
national TV coverage and advertising it offers.

In this time of frequency raiders, I think we need to re-assess who we are
providing service for before the time arrives when a commercial communications
provider goes to the FCC with a claim of unfair restraint of trade because
we took business away from him.

The days when hams were the only ones who knew about radio are gone.

Anybody can do it now.

(soapbox collapses under my tonnage) :-)

Just something IMHO we need to think about.

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Date: Tue, 17 Oct 89 21:42 EST
From: STELLABO%CSHLAB.BITNET@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU

Subject: Repeaters in the SFO area

Can anyone help .. ??

I am planning a business/pleasure trip with my XYL (who is also a HAM) to the San Francisco Bay area next week. I have a 440mhz handie-talkie and my wife has a 2meter handie. Is there a cross linked repeater in the SFO area where we could keep in touch via a 2meter/70cm linked repeater ???

Thanks for your help.

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